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influence of women to bear on the abolition of war. The object of the sisterhood is as follows: "To promote mutual knowledge of each other by the women of different nations, good will, and friendship; to study the causes, economic and moral, of war, and by every means in their power to bring the humanizing influence of women to bear on the abolition of war and the substitution of international justice and arbitration for irrational methods of violence." The secretary is Mrs. Charles Strong, Barnato Grove, Armadale, Australia.

JAPAN PEACE SOCIETY

The Rev. D. Ebina and Dr. U. Hattori, of the Japan Peace Society, sailed July 10 for the United States. Their mission is similar to that of Drs. Shailer Mathews and Sidney L. Gulick, who, representing the Federal Council of American Churches, visited Japan some

months ago for the purpose of promoting a more friendly interest between Japan and America. The hope was expressed, at a dinner given in the honor of the Rev. Ebina and Dr. Hattori before they sailed, that the representatives of Japan would communicate to the American people Japan's sincerity in her desire to maintain the most cordial friendship with America.

MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY

The Massachusetts Peace Society is organizing the State on the basis of a local committee of the Society in each of the cities and larger towns. As a result of activity during the past summer, local committees have been started in the following places: Adams, Athol, Andover, Chelsea, Fitchburg, Gardner, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Holyoke, Malden, North Adams, Northampton, Orange, Pittsfield, Quincy, Shelburne Falls.

FIELD DEPARTMENT NOTES

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES DEPARTMENT

THE director of this department delivered an address in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. at Tampa, Fla., on August 8, and reports indicate that it was enthusiastically received. Addresses during the month were also given in Florida at Lakeland, Arcadia, Kissimmee, and Sanford. The women's clubs and the churches of the towns united in promoting the meetings. The Women's Federation in Florida will arrange a tour this fall for the director to all of the principal cities and towns of the State.

NEW YORK PEACE SOCIETY

A statement in opposition to the laying of an embargo on the export of munitions of war to the belligerents in Europe was drawn up and signed by several of the vice-presidents and directors of the New York Peace Society and given to the press the first part of September. This statement is personal rather than official, as it was not possible then, on account of the vacation period, to call a meeting of the board and to take official action. While opinion was not unanimous among those who could be reached, it is believed that the statement expresses the views of the great majority of the officials of the society. The statement is as follows:

To the members and the constituents of the New York Peace Society:

In view of the demand that is being made, ostensibly in

the name of American friends of peace, that our government shall reverse the policy regarding the sale by merchants and manufacturers of munitions of war to belligerent governments, the officers and the directors of the New York Peace Society feel themselves under obligation to declare that they oppose the laying of an embargo on such exports.

We mention the following reasons for our attitude:

First. Scrupulous observance by the nations of international law is essential to progress toward peace. Accepted principles of international law should not be changed in the interest of either belligerent while a war is in progress. The law, as is admitted, permits the exportation of munitions.

Second. The custom of making enormous preparations for war in time of peace ought to be discouraged. If a nation might not lawfully purchase arms from the merchants of neutral countries after the outbreak of hostilities, it would be forced to invest vast sums of money in armament plants and to pile up enormous reserves of ammunition. Many small countries which lack the means of producing arms and ammunition could not possibly supply the lack, and the same thing is true of large but purely agricultural countries. Natural resources for securing raw materials and highly developed industries might give to one nation a dangerous preponderance over others.

Signed by Alton B. Parker, Francis Lynde Stetson, John A. Stewart, George A. Plimpton, Samuel T. Dutton, William S. Bennet, William H. Bliss, Albert Shaw, Lyman Abbott, John Bates Clark, Horace White, Frederick Lynch, George Haven Putnam, William Jay Schieffelin, William H. Short, Mary J. Pierson, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, A. Augustus Healy, Robert Underwood Johnson, Isaac N. Seligman, and Hamilton Holt.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Diplomacy of the War of 1914. By Ellery C. Stowell. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co. 728 p. Price, \$5.00 net.

It is impossible to think or speak intelligently about the War of 1914 without knowing the significance of the Concert of Europe which grew out of the Council of Vienna and of the forces which led to the alliances for maintaining the balance of power. The conditions which made this war possible grew out of the impotence of these organizations. The surprise is that the war did not come earlier. Indeed, Europe has on various occasions been much nearer to war than we are in the habit of considering. England and France nearly clashed over the Fashoda incident, late in the year 1898. The settlement of that difficulty and the influence that led England to favor French aspirations in Morocco make interesting reading. The defeat of Russia by Japan encouraged Germany to press her claims in Morocco and led to the conference at Algeciras, with the result that England

and Russia became so friendly that in 1907 they were co-operating intimately in the partition of Persia. The importance of the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria in October, 1908, is familiar; but due importance is rarely given to the incident at Agadir in 1911. One cannot know the present war without understanding the forces involved in the Turco-Italian War, 1911-1912, and in the Balkan Wars. These all were real crises in European history. They are briefly, simply, and adequately considered by Professor Stowell in this valuable contribution to current history. The various documents of the nature of evidence are also carefully analyzed, showing the political aims of the Powers and the various alliances. The whole question of Belgian neutrality receives extended treatment. A chronology, a list of citations, and an index add immeasurably to the value of the volume.